As regards the maintenance expenditure, in the case of EPIP (Export Promotion Industrial Parks) which you are going to establish, as I mentioned earlier, 75 per cent of the capital investment will be borne by us, by the Centre, and to maintain the quality of the facilities which are being created there, the levy which is imposed on the beneficiaries will be passed on to the States so that the States do have adequate resources to maintain the facilities which are being created there. That point we have already taken care of.

As regards the dissemination of information—this is a very important point, —we have decided that a company is going to be established very shortly. In fact, the Cabinet has cleared this proposal. The Company constituted by the ITPO and the NIC of the Planning Commission are going to float jointly a company whose job will be to collect information because all the districts are now brought under the computer network through NICNET and all the relevant information connected with trade will be available not only to the State headquarters but also to all the important trading centres in different parts of the country. But it will take some time to build it up. They will start their operations some time in the first week of October.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Sir, I want to know...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I am going to the next question.

*203. (The questioner (Shri Janardan Yadav) was absent. For answer, vide col. 28 infra.)

New sites for coal deposits in Vidarbha region

*204. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:†

SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what are the new sites for coal deposits found in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) by when the exploitation of these coal sites will be started;

(c) whether the survey for new sites is still going on; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Geological Survey of India (GSI) have identified Nand, Bokhara and Makardhokra as new potential coal bearing areas in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

(b) Programme for exploitation for these new areas is dependent on factors like completion of detailed exploration, availability of land, techno-economic feasibility of individaul projects, availability of environmental and forestry clearaness and that of financial resources for taking up the individual projects.

(c) and (d) GSI is presently conducting exploration for coal in Jogapur-Ghanpur areas in Wardha Valley coalfield. GSI has also planned regional exploration in Masak-Asthi-Chora areas in Wardha Valley coalfield and in Katol basin in Nagpur district in Vidarbha area of Maharashtra.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, the hon Minister has given the various factors on which the programme of exploitation would depend. In this list of factors he has not mentioned one of the most important factors and that is immediate proximity to densely populated areas. Sir, Bokhara and Makardhokra have been identified as potential sites. This Bokhara is technically just adjoining the Municipal Corporation limits of Nagpur City, and in practical terms, the octroi post of Nagpur on the Nagpur Saoner Road has gone beyond the Bokhara village. So, all the

*The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Shrikant Ramchandra Jichkar.

factors are complete. The land is available. But the Bokhara village is in the immediate proximity of densely populated areas. Many residential areas go beyond Bokhara. So, I would like to know whether this factor would also be taken into consideration while exploiting the site of Bokhara.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Yes, Sir, how much is the population, which will be affected, is one of the factors which is always taken into consideration while starting coal mining.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, the entire population of Nagpur will be affected. My second supplementary is that, during the flood in the first fortnight of July in Vidarbha region, it so happened that in parts of Nagpur and Chandrapur districts, where the coal-mines are situated, water got collected because of open mines and because of earth being piled up creating a dam-like structure. Water got collected without any reinforcement and when water got collected in huge quantity in one night, the earth gave way and thousands of houses were washed away and 60 people died. There is always a danger when a coal-mine site is in the immediate proximity of densely populated areas. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister that in view of the recent experience in Nagpur and Chandrapur districts, where 60 people died, whether he would ensure that, before developing and exploiting the sites in Bokhara and Makardhokra, the danger to the population of Nagpur city would be considered on top priority.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, coal is extracted for the benefit of the people. Therefore, first consideration is given to environment, rehabilitation and safety measures. In all coal-mining projects, safety of the miners as well as the population in the peripheral area is inbuilt and it is studied. It is co-ordinated, taking all aspects together, by the nodal unit of CMPDI at Ranchi. In fact, eight or nine agencies operate to find out what the difficulties would be. So far as the death of 60 people is concerned, it was because of the food in that area and, according to the information we have received, this has nothing to do with the coal mining. Eight inches of rainfall took place in a day recently in that area. Some mines were flooded. But immediate steps were taken by the officers and the people concerned with safety. Therefore, there was no danger to the mines. So far as the areas of new coalfields are concerned, particularly Nagpur city, if there is any danger, then this co-ordinating group operates and naturally those areas, where a large number of people will be affected, are consulted in the planning.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: The Minister has answered that there was no danger to the mines during the flood. There was danger to the population. So many people died. I am satisfied with the Minister's reply. But he should reinforce that assurance with respect to Bokhara and Makardhokra.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the Minister has given the assurance. Shri V. Rajeshwar Rao.

SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Sir, I would like to know whether the Geological Survey of India has explored any site in and around Ramtek town.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: As regards Ramtek, the figures are not with me. I will find out and inform the hon. Member.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: How much is the private sector participation in coal-mines in view of the new policy of the Government? You are having new sites in Nagpur, Vilarbha area as also in West Bengal, in Bihar and in other places. What exactly is your new policy? Will you please throw light on this?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, this House has passed an amendment by which the Coal Nationalisation Act was ended allowing the private people to set up captive power plants. If they put up a power station for production of electricity, then a captive coal-mine would be

given to them. That was the amendment passed by this House and by the Lok Sabha and it has become an Act. Along with that whoever wants to put up a washery, whether it is a private enterprise or whether it is a joint venture or whether it is people from outside, will also be given a captive coal-mine 'so that' coal can be mined by them and used in the washery. But the produced washed coal will be purchased at the doorstep by the Coal India Limited as at present. These are the changes that took place. So far as Maharashtra is concerned, three such private parties have shown interest. One is M/s. Nipon Denro Ispat Limited. They have given a proposal for setting up firstly a 1000 MW power plant at Umred. They have again sought for a permission for an additional 1000 MW capacity, thus totalling 2000 MW They have asked for certain captive coal mines. And the first coal mine which is being identified for them is Baranj I—IV. A Committee has been set up to identify Baranj I—IV and Bander except in areas where the coal India Limited and WCL have started working. The second party is M/s. ACC Limited. They have also asked for a captive coal mine of 25 MW power plant their own factory. And the third one is M/s. RPG Industries Limited. They hav ealso shown their interest in captive coal mines. But we could not give captive mines to them because no other captive coal mine is available at present. They have also asked for a linkage. Sir, we have found that M/s. RPG Industries Limited and M|s. Nipon Denro Ispat Limited have shown interest in developing captive mining blocks. Both these things are pendnig and we need power. We have asked for a Master Plan for the entire Wardna field which may be completed in the course of this year and all these private peopel will be able to participate.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: You have not talked about the price formula for purchases made by the private sector.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Regarding price formula, as I said, the MOU and other things are under discussion. Therefore, when the Master Plan is made ready and the details are gone into, certainly, the hon. Members will come to know about the price formula.

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : सभापति जी, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि विदर्भ एरिया की यह कोयला खदान चलाने के लिये इनको फंडज कहां से उपलब्ध हो रहे हैं और उसके साथ-साथ यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि अब तक हमारे पास कितना कोल डिपाजिट रह गया है और रोज का या सालाना हमारा आउटपुट कितना है और अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया तीन प्राइवेट कम्पनियों जिन्होंने पावर प्लांटस के लिये कैपिटल कोल माइंस के लिये अप्लाई किया है विदर्भ इलाके में मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि हमारे देश के कितने भी थर्मल पावर स्टेशन हैं वे इसलिये अच्छी तरह नहीं चल रहे हैं कि उनको हाई कैलोरीफिक वैल्यू का कोल नहीं मिल पाता है, हाई एश परसेंटज का कोल मिलता है जिसके कारण उसकी कैलोरीफिक वैल्यू कम हो जाती है और जिसके कारण स्टीम जनरेशन में कमी आ जाती है । हम भी अपने थर्मल पावर स्टेशन चलाने के लिये उसकी कमी पूरी करने के लिये कोयला इपोर्ट करने की बात सोचते हैं । पर अगर हम यह प्राइवेट कम्पनियों को अच्छे कोयला खदान अगर दे देंगे और उसमें अगर निम्न मैरिट के अगर कोयला खदान हमारे सरकारी थर्मल पावर स्टेशन के लिये रह जायेंगे तो हमारे थर्मल पावर स्टेशन को चलाना बहुत मुश्किल हो जायेगा, इस चीज को आप ध्यान में रख रहे है या नहीं । मैं समझता हूं कि जो हमारे कोयला खदान पहले चिन्हित किये गये हैं क्योंकि हाई कैलोरिफिक वैल्यू है तो लो पेश परसेंटज है कोयले में वह हमारे गवर्नमेंट के पहले थर्मल पावर स्टेशन जो हैं उनके लिये रिजर्व रखे जायें उसके बाद जो नये कोयला खदान जहां पर लो ऐश परसेंटेज का कोयला निकले वह प्राइवेट कम्पनियों को आफर किये जायें, इसके बारे में कुछ सोचा जा रहा है या नहीं सोचा जा रहा है ?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, so far as the fund position is concerned, I

feel that the hon. Member wants to know what the amount of funds for exploration is. The fund for exploration was given from 1989. And this is given to the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL). This year, it is about Rs. 10 crores. This is only for coal exploration. So far as the country's reserve of coal is concerned, as on 1st January, 1994, it is a little over 1,96,000 million tonnes. This figure is for the whole country. Of this, the book reserve that is already in existence is 68,047.39 million tonnes. Our yearly output is about 250 million tonnes. At the end of the Eighth Five-Year Plan, it is projected at 300 million tonnes. At the beginning of the next century, it will be about 500 million tonnes per year. Therefore, there is enough coal reserve.

So far as the danger as pointed out by the hon. Member is concerned, there is no danger at all for giving captive Coal-mines to the new people, the private people, for establishing power stations because this aspect was thoroughly discussed in this House and in the other House when the Act was amended.

So far as the supply of coal is concerned, it is not correct to say that any power station anywhere in the country has been affected because of either insufficient coal supply or bad quality coal. There is a check system. Every week, the Co-ordination Committee reviews the position and the representatives of the Ministries of Coal, Power, Railways and the Department of Supply sit together.

In regard to 'D' grade coal, we have got enough supply and the figures will show that during the last three years, there has been improvement in the plant load factor and it is not correct to say that the plant load factor has diminished. Whenever a complaint comes regarding content, it is immediately attended to or the corresponding amount of money is deducted from the bill. Therefore, I can assure the hon. Member that so far as the power sector is concerned, it will not suffer or want of quality coal

SHRI JOGESH DESAI: Sir, recently a public sector company has gone on record. The power sector says that it is not given the coal it demanded. Will the Government make an enquiry?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: If the name of any particular power company is pointed out, I will certainly look into the matter.

डा० जगन्नाथ मिश्र : यह सवाल बड़ा महत्व का है लेकिन समय कम है, लेकिन एक बात हम जरूर जानना चाहेंगे कि इस समय इस साल के बजट में कोल एंड कोक के आयात शुल्क में जो कटौती की गई है, उसके क्या प्रभाव धनबाद में अवस्थित ऐसी कोयला खदानों पर पड़ने वाले हैं और उससे संबंधित उद्योग पर पड़ने वाले हैं ? दूसरा यह है कि जैसे अभी विदर्भ के संबंध में मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि सीएम, पीडीआई की रिपोर्ट पर वह उस खदान को देख रहे हैं, उस की बाइब्लिटी को देख रहे हैं । हम जानना चाहेंगे कि संथाल परगना दुमका जिला, जो कि ई.प्र. स्थली में है, यह कोयला खदान है जिसको कि रांची के सीएम, पीडीआई ने उपयुक्त समझा है, उसे आज बन्द करके वहां के आदिवासी मजदूरों को क्यों नियोजन से निष्कासित किया जा रहा है ? उनमें से 85 परसेंट महिला आदिवासी हैं, जो काम करती हैं । इसी मद में हम जानना चाहेंगे कि उनके दोनों निर्णयों से बिहार के लोगों पर बड़ा ही प्रभाव पड़ने वाला है, वहां के उद्योगों पर और वहां की रोजगार व्यवस्था पर, इसलिये उनकी और आपका ध्यान विशेष रूप से हम आकर्षित कराना चाहेंगे ।

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, this is a question related to WCL, Maharashtra. I need notice for answering this question of the Hon'ble Member as it is outside the scope of the main question.

Pension scheme for P. F. contributors

*205. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI K. M. KHAN:†

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred

*The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri K. M. Khan.